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# The Maryland Yellowthroat

August 2022



Photo by Marcia Watson

A conga line? That would be a good guess, but actually these MOS members are enjoying the observation deck at Panama's fabulous Canopy Tower while on MOS's sponsored springtime excursion. See what they found in Marcia Watson's account found on page 10.

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**The Maryland Yellowthroat**  
**Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society**

Editor: Dave Wood

Yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Calendar Editor: Marilyn Veek

calendar@mdbirds.org

Mailing List: Maryanne Dolan

maryanne.dolan@gmail.com

Copy Editor: Susan Pardew

Chapter Chatter: Jean Wheeler

jswheeler3@verizon.net

Webmaster: Tom Strikwerda

webmaster@mdbirds.org

**Editor's Note**

This issue of the Yellowthroat focuses on some of the travels our MOS members have made so far in 2022, and it is nice to report that we are on the move again, in spite of the continuing presence of COVID. Marcia Watson leads the way with her account of the April/May MOS expedition to Panama, while Jean Wheeler's Chapter Chatter fills us in on member stateside trips to Ohio, New Jersey, Michigan, Alaska, and Hawaii, and international forays to Colombia, Ecuador, Jordan, and Egypt. Plenty of wonderful sightings and photographs to engage us armchair travelers. At home, meanwhile, Chapter Chatter reminds us that we don't have to get out of town to enjoy birds: read about Pat and Juanita Tate's latest successes with the Smithsonian Institution's Nest Watch program and Michel Cavigelli's discovery of a Fork-tailed Flycatcher at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

But, of course, COVID can travel just as we can. And, sure enough, while in Colombia, Jean and the others on the trip came down with the virus. This ended the adventure for a few members of the group, but Jean and others soldiered on. Her account should prove illuminating for those of us preparing for travels in the future, especially international trips. I certainly was glad to read it just before six of us took off for Brazil in July. And, yes, we all came down with (very mild) cases, thanks to our Brazilian guide who was under the weather. It didn't slow us down at all, just maybe because we were all vaccinated and boosted.

This trip brought home to me how birding, especially internationally, has changed in the last 40-50 years. Just over the Brazilian border lies Paraguay, where I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1977 to 1981. Prior to leaving for my assignment, I was finishing up graduate school at Cornell, and while there, I would, on occasion, visit the ornithology lab library and go through its copy of A Guide to the Birds of South America, published in 1970 and written by Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee, curator of birds at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. I felt you had to be pretty intrepid back then to venture into the continent's jungles, mountains, and plains, and I was certainly thrilled to have such a rare opportunity.

Once in country, I started trying to identify birds. At that time, the only standard-style field guides for South American birds covered Venezuela, Trinidad, and Panama. None of them were very useful in Paraguay, so I resorted to de Schauensee's guide. This proved a challenge to use for someone, like me, new to the continent. For those not familiar with this ground-breaking work, the author based the description of each species on museum skins. Not included was information on voice, behavior, or habitat beyond general terms such as "forest" or "savannah." And though it included illustrations, they were not comprehensive, an impossibility with close to 3000 species being described.

Compounding the difficulty was the dearth of ecolodges and qualified guides. Before starting home, mainly by land after my work was complete, I asked a Smithsonian field biologist how to access the Ecuadorian Amazon. His best advice was to try to contact missionaries from the Summer Institute of Linguistics and hope they would take me along. I didn't find them and didn't go.

Now, today, we have wonderful field guides covering most of South America, terrific lodges, and in-country guides that continue to amaze, not to mention humble, with their skill and knowledge. My wife and I went to the Ecuadorian Amazon in 2019 and enjoyed superb lodges and supremely knowledgeable guides. And in 2022, we enjoyed Brazil's Pantanal, Cerrado, and lower Amazon (macaw photos from the trip can be seen in Chapter Chatter). We were not close to being intrepid. Fortunately, we didn't have to be. Even with COVID.



## President's Corner

This is my final contribution to the Yellowthroat as President of MOS; my term expires at the end of August, and Bonnie Borsa steps in as the new president. The past two or three years have been a tumultuous time for MOS! But we've accomplished a lot and kept MOS running (mostly) smoothly in spite of the buffeting winds. I'd like to take this last opportunity to review these accomplishments and add some opinions about how MOS, as an organization, can be improved. I think it is critically important to spend a bit of time every couple of years thinking about exactly that: how can we make MOS a better organization?

Internal to MOS, we have addressed a number of issues. One of these is the introduction of a new budgeting process which should make it easier to fund new initiatives, as well as encourage an annual review of on-going expenditures to make sure that they continue to be in the best interests of MOS. Too often, we spend money on an initiative simply because we have always spent money on that initiative. Communications within MOS is another area where we have been trying to improve, with some success. The Board of Directors now has a way to discuss matters and vote on them via email. The change to the by-laws that was passed in June 2019 that allowed email votes by the Board and elections by the membership (in lieu of the annual meeting) was made just in time – COVID hit just nine months later! Additionally, the chapter presidents now have an easy way to share ideas and to ask questions amongst themselves, something that was heavily used two years ago to share ideas about how to hold virtual meetings during the pandemic. Finally, like so many other organizations, whether non-profit or not, we have had to deal with people in our organization behaving poorly. As a result, we have instituted a way for individuals to report misbehavior such as sexual harassment by officers or volunteers of MOS, anonymously if desired, and developed procedures that will prevent such misbehavior from being swept under the rug.

The winds from outside MOS have blown strong, too, and have impacted us in many ways, some for good. COVID, of course, has been a constant throughout the past two years. We've had to cancel one convention, make another virtual, and our local chapters have, for the most part, held their meetings virtually. The Board has continued to meet quarterly, and we're now going forward with hybrid meetings, with Board members attending both in-person and virtually. This is a big step forward, as it allows members from the farthest reaches of the state to attend the meetings wherever the meeting is actually located. And our membership is up, approaching 2000 members. In part that is due to the increase in interest in birding due to the COVID shutdowns, and, I believe, in part due to the ease with which one can join MOS on the web. While there was some good that came out of the COVID pandemic, I for one would like it to be over, and right NOW!

There were other events from the outside world that intrude themselves into the MOS bubble quite forcibly.

One was the harassment by a White woman of a Black birder in Central Park. The other was George Floyd's death at the hand of the Minneapolis police. These events were the occasion for considerable reflection on the demographics of our membership, and what the current demographics meant for the future of MOS. In response to the Central Park event, the MOS Board adopted a Declaration on Racism in June 2020, and in March 2021 the Board adopted an amended mission statement that acknowledges that "only by ensuring that our organization is welcoming to all people can we achieve our goal of fostering interaction among all people interested in wild birds, nature, and their conservation." After these were adopted, I received several complaints that MOS was being "too POLITICAL", and that MOS should stick to birds. I admit that I am quite sympathetic to that view. I often go birding simply to get away, and POLITICS is a large part of what I am getting away from. But I also recognize that there are times that MOS must speak up.

Clearly, there are hot button topics to which MOS should never speak. Yet I firmly believe that there are three reasons for which MOS should always be willing to speak up, even if it smacks of POLITICS. Birds are the first reason. MOS should be a loud advocate in favor of birds and their conservation – after all, birds are the very reason for MOS's existence.

The second reason for MOS to advocate is on behalf of birders, and not just the birders who make up the membership, of MOS, but all birders throughout Maryland's population. Finally, MOS should be willing to participate in POLITICS on behalf of MOS itself. And it is this third reason that I feel it was necessary to amend the MOS mission statement, in spite of POLITICS. MOS must be welcoming to all people who are interested in birds (and I think, for the most part, it is), but almost as important, it must be seen to be welcoming. If acting on MOS's behalf requires making a POLITICAL statement, then we should indeed make that POLITICAL statement and not shy away for fear of appearing to be POLITICAL.

As I said in the beginning, it's been a couple of eventful years, and MOS has continued to grow and improve. I do see, however, that there are a number of areas where MOS needs to work harder to become a better organization.

The first of these areas is in getting MOS members to volunteer to help MOS in its many activities. Opportunities abound, ranging from helping with the MOS Convention to helping with the MOS website to helping with YMOS. Yet it seems that getting MOS members to volunteer to help is becoming harder and harder. And it's not just hard to get volunteers for the statewide activities of MOS, but it's also getting harder for the local chapters to fill their officer positions. MOS is an entirely volunteer-run organization, and if its members stop volunteering to support its activities, I'm not sure how MOS can survive. I recognize that the lack of volunteers isn't unique to MOS; many other organizations have expressed similar worries. I also suspect that part of the problem is, once again, communications. While some aspects of communications within MOS have improved, we are still not doing a good job of communicating in a timely manner with our

membership! I've been looking for ways to improve that avenue of communication, but I haven't come up with a good solution.

The second area that needs to be addressed is the governing structure itself. MOS is governed by officers who are elected for two-year terms and by the Board of Directors. The members of the Board include the elected officers, committee chairs, local chapter presidents, and directors from the local chapters. Currently, there are 65 or so members of the Board. This is a very large number, and as MOS grows, under the current bylaws the size of the Board will also grow. Having a Board of this size makes it hard to have in-depth discussions, and one of the consequences of this is that new ideas and initiatives have been few and far between over the past twenty years or so. I think that having a smaller, more responsive Board will lead to a more innovative and more responsive MOS. Another consequence of having such a large Board is the diffusion of responsibility. All too often things are left to someone else to deal with – after all, there are 60 others on the Board – and often that someone is the president. Additionally, the expectation that the President serve not only his two years as president, but also the preceding two years as vice-president and the following two years as past president, means that anyone volunteering to run for president is committing themselves to six years. That is a very difficult commitment to make, considering the chances of changes in health, family, or financial situations. I have only begun to think about what a new governing structure might look like. How to reduce the size of the Board while still maintaining the input from all of the local chapters is a key consideration, since the state-wide organization rests on the shoulders of the local chapters. Restructuring the governance of MOS is something that we should look seriously at, and I will be thinking about ways to do so while I serve the next two years as Past President.

It has been a pleasure to serve MOS these past two years. I've met many new friends, developed new IT skills, and even gotten out to go birding once or twice. I will be working with Bonnie Borsa, the incoming president, to ensure a smooth transition, starting with a session next week to set up her laptop, when we will discuss both IT and MOS things! As always, if you have questions or suggestions for me, don't hesitate to reach out. I'll continue to be active in MOS for a while yet!

John McKitterick

[john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org](mailto:john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org)

President, MOS

## MBCP Update – August 2022

### Ospreys and Kestrels in Maryland Bird Conservation News

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan presented a Governor's Citation on July 11 to the **Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival:** "Be it Known: That on behalf of the citizens of this State, in recognition of a grateful tribute to honor and commend the growth and success of the Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival held annually the first week in April – a family-friendly event established to celebrate Maryland's charismatic Ospreys and provide increased education, support and funding for the benefit of conservation awareness; and as our citizens join in expressing our gratitude and sincere best wisher for continued success, we are please to confer upon you this Governor's Citation." The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership is proud to be the fiscal host for the Festival, which made a donation to Owl Moon Raptor Center in 2022.

We are very pleased to invite MOS members in central Maryland (and beyond!) to a family-friendly event next month highlighting a farmland raptor in need of our help:

### Maryland's Smallest Falcon: Learning to Protect American Kestrels

The American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) is the smallest and most common falcon in much of North America. But their population is shrinking fast. What can we do to protect and restore these beautiful and important birds?

Victoria Aguilar, Farmland Raptor Intern for the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) and the Audubon Society of Central Maryland (ASCM), will talk about kestrels' fascinating behavior and important role in controlling mice and insect populations and about how habitat loss, pesticides, and other factors threaten the birds.

Art for Change Club of Glenelg High School will also present a diorama depicting the kestrel habitat, and with Victoria will discuss how each of us can learn to support a thriving kestrel population in Central Maryland.

Join us in this exciting talk at Milkhouse Brewery on September 18, 2022, at 2:00 pm o'clock. Free and family-friendly, donations are welcome to support the habitat and conservation efforts of ASCM and MBCP. For more information, please contact [advocacy@centralmdaudubon.org](mailto:advocacy@centralmdaudubon.org)

Please join us!

Chris Eberly

Executive Director

Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

The Farmland Raptor Program





# MOS Sanctuary Committee Welcomes New Chair Jeremy Castle

By Marcia Watson, Sanctuary Committee Secretary

MOS President John McKitterick recently announced that Jeremy Castle has stepped forward to lead the MOS Sanctuary Committee as Chair. Jeremy is a member of the Patuxent Bird Club and lives in northeast Washington, DC. Jeremy brings a unique breadth of experiences that are directly applicable to running our sanctuaries, from experience with property management to a background in environmental economics. In Jeremy's own words:

*Having been a member of MOS for only a couple of years, I come to the Sanctuary Committee as something of an outsider, and an introduction is in order. After graduating from Penn State University with a BS in Environmental & Renewable Resource Economics (a very long time ago!), I worked with an environmental consulting firm in Bethesda, took some graduate level environmental economics courses at the University of Maryland, and started buying rental properties in Washington, DC. After purchasing a few rental properties, it made sense to get more experience with property management. I worked for approximately 15 years managing condominium associations, overseeing warranty work for 300- to 400-unit buildings in NYC and DC, while also managing my own properties. I decided to join the Sanctuary Committee because my academic interest in environmental issues and my work experience dealing with property management seemed like a perfect fit.*

*I am now semi-retired and looking forward to putting more effort into conservation ventures (I have recently volunteered on road-kill surveys in MT, game-bird surveys in WV, and surveyed/tagged wood turtles in PA). To get started, I plan to visit all the MOS sanctuaries on a regular basis and meet all the selfless individuals who put so much of their precious time into these treasured places. I am eager to support the sanctuaries and help them reach their full potential for environmental conservation, accessibility to all those who wish to enjoy the outdoors responsibly, and especially for the birds!*

Please join the Sanctuary Committee members in extending a hearty MOS welcome to Jeremy!

Photo caption: Jeremy Castle at Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens. Photo by Christie Roberts



## Spotlight on:

### Seymour B. Cooper MOS Sanctuary

### Frederick County

By Jeremy Castle and Marcia Watson

*Note: This article is the fifth in a series spotlighting the ten sanctuaries owned by the Maryland Ornithological Society. The MOS sanctuaries are spread across the state from Garrett County to Somerset County, but the majority are little-known and seldom visited. Yet all the sanctuaries have something to offer the birder, naturalist, or conservationist.*

**Size:** 14 acres

**Habitats:** Oak-maple forest on a rocky north-facing slope, some conifers near the top; ground cover of ferns and small shrubs. No streams or ponds; perhaps some scattered small springs.

**Hours:** Daylight hours year-round. The sanctuary is located in a residential area and care should be taken to avoid disturbing the neighbors.



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**Seymour B. Cooper MOS Sanctuary**

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**Cost:** Free. Donations to the MOS Sanctuary Fund are always appreciated; donate online at <https://mdbirds.org/conservation/refuges-sanctuaries/#toggle-id-4>.

**Tips:** No parking lot; parking on the wide shoulder of the road. ■ Wear sturdy footwear as the ground is rocky. ■ Be alert for Timber Rattlesnakes, Black Bears, and Bobcats. ■ The sanctuary is near the Presidential retreat at Camp David. Public roads in the area of the sanctuary may be closed when the US President is visiting Camp David. Check <https://www.nps.gov/cato/planyourvisit/conditions.htm> for information and detours. ■ Hunting is not permitted on sanctuary grounds, but takes place on neighboring lands. Be aware of hunting seasons and plan your visit

accordingly. Wear blaze orange during deer and turkey hunting seasons. ■ No restrooms.

**Wheelchair Access:** The sanctuary is not wheelchair-accessible. However, one can park on the shoulder of the road and bird from the car or from the road.

**Best Seasons:** Spring and fall migration and early summer for breeding birds.

**Breeding Bird Atlas Block:** Blue Ridge Summit CE

**Multimedia:** See photos in the Google Maps Photo Gallery at <https://goo.gl/maps/Qa9sXfjXiE4o4bCF8> (scroll down in the panel on the left for photos).

**For printable sanctuary map and more information:** Go to <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/seymour-b-cooper-mos-sanctuary/>.

Seymour B. Cooper MOS Sanctuary is a 14.3-acre tract of land located in the Catoctin Mountains of Frederick County, north of Thurmont. It is located in Eyler Valley on the lower slope of 1700-foot Piney Mountain, just a short distance from Camp David and Catoctin Mountain Park, and 3.3 miles south of the Pennsylvania state line.

MOS acquired this land in 1978 as a gift from the Nature Conservancy, which had received it from the widow of the late Seymour B. Cooper. Mrs. Cooper wished to establish a nature preserve in her husband's memory, as he was an avid outdoorsman.

"No Hunting" signs indicate the sanctuary boundaries, and painted stakes mark the corners of the property. There is a large wooden sign bearing the name of the sanctuary, but this is set back from the road and not easily seen when the trees are in leaf. The best landmarks for the sanctuary boundaries are the adjoining houses.

The sanctuary sits on the north-facing slope of Piney Mountain, and is covered by second-growth deciduous forest consisting mostly of oaks and maples. Chestnut Oak is the dominant tree, and the canopy averages 60-80 feet in height. There are a few scattered conifers near the top of the sanctuary, uphill from the road. The presence of American Chestnut saplings and older fallen logs indicate that this area was probably logged



Boundary Marker Sign. Photo by Marcia Watson



## Spotlight on: Seymour B. Cooper MOS Sanctuary

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around the time of the Chestnut blight. It has not been logged since MOS acquired it in 1978. There is a sparse ground cover of ferns and small shrubs; the middle layer of the understory is mostly lacking. There are no streams or other waterways on the sanctuary, although there may be an intermittent spring or two.

There are no established trails in the sanctuary, but a remnant of an old logging road starts at the west corner of the property along Eylers Valley Flint Road, and heads southeast into the heart of the sanctuary. Not used by vehicles since the 1960s or earlier, this road is now just a trail, marked mostly by traces of gravel along parts of its path. The old logging road runs very near the property line for the sanctuary. Do not stray to the south as you will be on private land. Obey the <No Trespassing> signs.

Although there are no marked trails, the understory of the sanctuary is relatively open and the entirety of the sanctuary can be easily explored on foot. Be aware that the ground is studded with rocks and boulders that present trip hazards as well as possible hiding places for Timber Rattlesnakes. Sturdy hiking boots are recommended. Also be on the alert for Black Bears and Bobcats, both of which frequent the area.



A view of the sanctuary interior. Photo by Marcia Watson

### Conservation Value

Seymour B. Cooper MOS Sanctuary lies within the Maryland Blue Ridge Important Bird Area (IBA), as designated by the National Audubon Society.

It is also within an area classified by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as a Targeted Ecological Area. Targeted Ecological Areas are lands and watersheds identified by the DNR as the most ecologically valuable areas in the State; they are considered the “Best of the Best” and receive priority for conservation by the state.

Further, the sanctuary is categorized by DNR as a Green Infrastructure Wildlife Hub and Corridor. Green Infrastructure refers to the State’s remaining large blocks of forest and wetlands (hubs) and the habitat pathways (corridors) that connect them. The sanctuary and surrounding lands have also been identified by DNR as important for Forest Interior Dwelling Species.

It may surprise visitors to learn that this unassuming little woodlot is located in an area classified by DNR as Tier 3 – Highly Significant for Biodiversity Conservation under their Bionet – Biological Diversity Conservation Network initiative. DNR awards Seymour Cooper Sanctuary

- 5 stars out of 5 for providing “Habitat Connectivity.”
- 4 stars out of 5 for providing “Rare Species and Wildlife Habitat.”
- 3 stars out of 5 for “Support of Aquatic Life.”
- 5 stars out of 5 for “Forests Important for Water Quality Protection.”
- 3 stars out of 5 for “Proximity to Other Protected Lands.”

Deed restrictions dictate that the land must be forever maintained as a nature preserve for scientific, educational, and esthetic purposes, to be kept entirely in its natural state. Only foot-trails and fences are allowed; no buildings may be placed on the property.

### Why visit?

Seymour Cooper is seriously under-birded, and hence only an incomplete discussion of its birdlife is possible at this time. The eBird hotspot for Seymour B. Cooper Sanctuary lists only 52 species of birds as of July 2022, but only 12 checklists

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**Seymour B. Cooper MOS Sanctuary**

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have been submitted since the hotspot was established in 2017. No checklists at all have been submitted in 2022, and it does not appear that the sanctuary is being actively included in local atlasing activity. Spring and fall migration have also been virtually ignored.

We encourage anyone who is in the area to visit and submit an eBird checklist at <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L5926718>, especially during breeding season, with submission of eBird checklists through the BBA3 Atlas portal. Please feel free to include notes on other wildlife and on plants in your checklist comments.

Canada Geese and Mallards may occur as flyovers, probably commuting to or from Rainbow Lake in the Emmitsburg Watershed (about 2.25 miles to the northeast, as the crow flies) or some other nearby pond or wetland. Great Blue Herons may also be seen as flyovers.

Rock Pigeons are also possible as flyovers from nearby farms. Mourning Doves are present on the property. Yellow-billed Cuckoos occur during breeding season.

Both Black and Turkey Vultures are common overhead. Sharp-shinned Hawks have been seen in early spring. Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks have been flyovers in fall.

Red-headed Woodpeckers occur in the wider area, and there is one report from the Sanctuary. Red-bellied Woodpeckers can be found at any time of year, and Northern Flickers and Pileated Woodpeckers are also found across a range of seasons. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers have been present but not often reported, but that may be an artifact of the low number of eBird checklists.

In the summer, flycatchers include Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, and Great Crested Flycatcher. Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos are also present during breeding season.

Blue Jays and American Crows are found throughout the year, and there is one report of flyover Common Raven. Ravens are widely reported from the larger area.

As you might expect, Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmice are common. Given the proximity of the sanctuary to Pennsylvania, Black-capped Chickadees are a distinct possibility, and birders should be alert for them, especially in winter. Ruby-crowned Kinglets linger through spring. White-breasted Nuthatches are also present, and Brown Creepers appear to be present in early spring (one report).

Carolina Wrens are present, probably year-round. Gray

Catbirds and Northern Mockingbirds are known from only single reports, along with Eastern Bluebirds. Wood Thrushes are present during breeding season, and American Robins have been found in spring.

American Goldfinches, Chipping Sparrows, Eastern Towhees, Ovenbirds, Scarlet Tanagers, and Northern Cardinals have all been reported during breeding season. Species found in spring that perhaps stay to breed include Black-and-White Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Pine Warbler. Dark-eyed Juncos and House Finches have occurred in winter.

By comparison with the bird list for Seymour Cooper Sanctuary, the Blue Ridge Summit CE Atlas Block, within which the sanctuary is located, had a total of 71 species during the first Breeding Bird Atlas, and a total of 83 species during the Second Breeding Bird Atlas. A total of 75 species has been reported in the atlas block during BBA3 to date, of which 37 were Confirmed and another 13 were Probable breeders.

Based on these atlas results, and considering the available habitat, some birds to watch for at Seymour Cooper (not all of these would be breeders) include:

Wild Turkey, Black-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, House Wren, European Starling, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, House Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Worm-eating Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Indigo Bunting.

This could be considered as your target list for visits to Seymour Cooper.

If you want to try for additional species diversity when birding at Seymour Cooper, be aware that there is a wetland, about 10 acres in size, on private land across the road from the sanctuary. This wetland is not visible from the road, but lies in a stream valley within a forested area less than 250 feet from the north side of Eylers Valley Flint Road and just west of Debold Road. The wetland is in a drainage area surrounding a small stream that runs the length of Eylers Valley between Catoctin Mountain to the north and Little Piney Mountain to the south. The wetland may attract a different community of birds from what we see on the higher ground of the sanctuary. The land containing the wetland is private and should not be entered, but you can listen carefully for singing birds from Eylers Valley Flint Road or along Debold Road, especially at the small bridge just 200 feet north of the Debold Road intersection with Eylers Valley Road.



## Spotlight on:

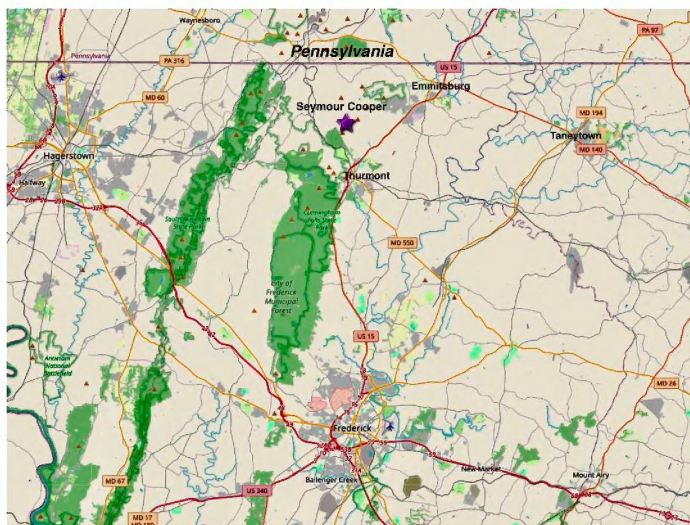
### Seymour B. Cooper MOS Sanctuary

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Birding Seymour Cooper Sanctuary might take only an hour or so. Other good birding spots in the area include Catoctin Mountain Park, Cunningham Falls State Park, Rainbow Lake at the Emmitsburg Watershed, and Fort Ritchie.

#### Parking

There is sufficient space on the road shoulder for three or four cars near the house at #7001 Eylers Valley Flint Road (see sanctuary map). Be careful not to block the private driveway and pull your car entirely off the road. If you go further northeast along the road, the shoulder is narrower and parking is complicated by the presence of a roadside ditch.



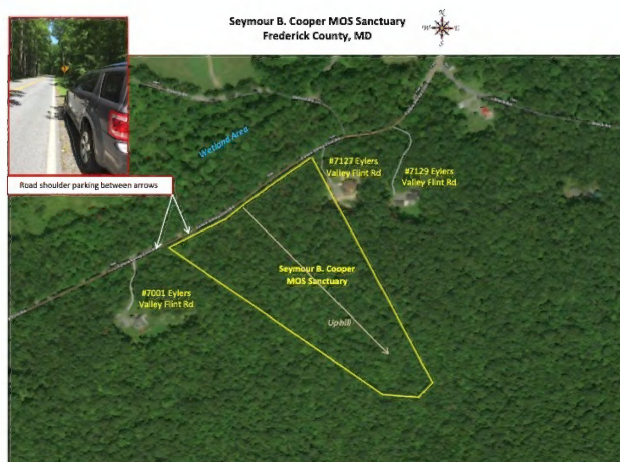
-Purple star near top center shows location of Seymour Cooper Sanctuary.

#### Directions

Seymour B. Cooper MOS Sanctuary is located on Eylers Valley Flint Road, Sabillasville, MD 21780; the sanctuary is located between private residences at #7001 and #7127. GPS Coordinates: 39.671422, -77.420969.

The general location is in the Catoctin Mountains north of Thurmont in Frederick County, just 3.3 miles south of the Pennsylvania State Line.

**From the Washington, DC area:** From the DC Beltway (I-495), take I-270 northwest to Frederick. At Frederick, follow signs to merge onto US Route 15 northbound. Stay on Route 15 for approximately 18 miles. After passing the town of Thurmont, turn left to go north on MD Route 550/Sabillasville Road. Stay on Sabillasville Road for 2.9 miles, then turn right to go east on Eylers Valley Flint Road. The sanctuary will be on the right in 1.6 miles, between



Map prepared by Marcia Watson using MERLIN (Maryland's Environmental Resource & Land Information Network), 1/26/21.

Sanctuary property boundaries shown in yellow.  
Map prepared by Marcia Watson using MERLIN  
(Maryland's Environmental Resource & Land  
Inventory Network)

houses at #7001 and #7127. Park on the shoulder on the right, just past the driveway for #7001.

**From the west (Hagerstown and beyond) OR from the east (Baltimore):** Take I-70 to the Frederick area. Follow signs to merge onto US Route 15 northbound. Stay on Route 15 for approximately 18 miles. After passing the town of Thurmont, turn left to go north on MD Route 550/Sabillasville Road. Stay on Sabillasville Road for 2.9 miles, then turn right to go east on Eylers Valley Flint Road. The sanctuary will be on the right in 1.6 miles, between houses at #7001 and #7127. Park on the shoulder on the right, just past the driveway for #7001.

**About the authors:** *Jeremy Castle is the new Chair of the MOS Sanctuary Committee and is a member of the Patuxent Bird Club; he lives in Washington, DC. Marcia Watson is the President of the Patuxent Bird Club and the secretary of the MOS Sanctuary Committee.*

### MOS Goes to Panama – Finally!

By Marcia Watson

The MOS Travel Program finally had its long-awaited trip to Panama, April 29 – May 10, 2022. This trip was originally scheduled for 2020, but Panama shut down tighter than a drum when Covid hit. There was a small advance party (Maryanne, Bettye Maki and Gwen Stanhope) that did make it to Panama in 2021 and they assured the rest of us that Panama was operating safely, Covid-wise, and that the birds were spectacular and would be worth the wait.

We had a highly congenial group of thirteen for the trip this year, representing six MOS chapters. Cecil Bird Club: Maryanne Dolan (trip organizer); Ken Drier; and Cathy Carter; Montgomery Bird Club: David Kidwell, Steve Krupa, and Diane Durham; Baltimore Bird Club: Sukon



## MOS Goes to Panama – Finally!

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Kanchanaraksa and Michele Melia; Frederick Bird Club: Kathy Brown and Lynne Kieffer; Howard County Bird Club: Robin and Hyacinth Todd; and Patuxent Bird Club: Marcia Watson.



The MOS group in Panama with guides Danilo Sr. and Danilo Jr.; photo by Carlos Rodriguez.

We stayed at the Canopy Tower for three nights and then at Canopy Lodge for seven nights. Both places are operated by the same family-owned business, known as the Canopy Family. They operate one other birding destination, Canopy Camp, in the remote Darien region in eastern Panama; our group tour did not include the Canopy Camp but two of our members, Diane Durham and Steve Krupa, opted for a week-long add-on following our group tour. Canopy Camp is where you go to see the rare and threatened Harpy Eagle. Mission accomplished by Diane and Steve! Also a bonus Crested Eagle for them!

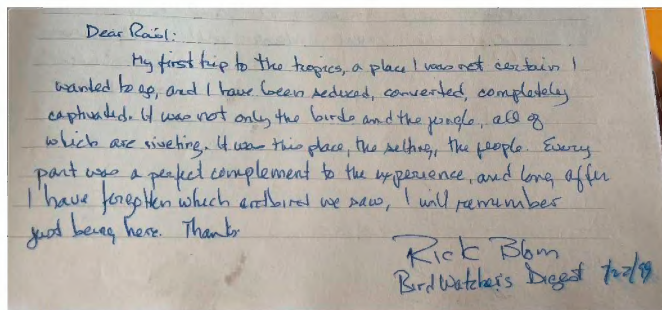
Canopy Tower is a world-famous birding destination, and a unique venue. It is located on Semaphore Hill, high above the Panama Canal, and was built as a radar tower by the US Army during the time when the US controlled the Canal Zone. When the US relinquished control of the Canal, the tower became available as surplus property, and Raúl Arias de Para, a local businessman, had the creative idea to turn it into a birding lodge, taking advantage of its view out over the canopy of trees on the surrounding hillsides.

Birders on the rooftop observation deck will be looking at birds at eye-level or slightly below. In addition, there are daily sightings of sloths, Howler Monkeys, Tamarins (another kind of monkey), and Coatis, and sometimes at night, a Kinkajou (an elongated arboreal mammal related to raccoons) will show up to dine on bananas put out in the trees by the Canopy Tower staff.



Canopy Tower exterior; photo by Marcia Watson.

Canopy Tower opened as a birding lodge in 1999, and one of the first to visit was MOS's own Rick Blom, a renowned ornithologist who was one of the lead consultants for the second edition of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, and a prolific author for scientific journals and birding magazines, as well as the coordinator and editor of the first *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Maryland and DC*. Rick, who passed away in 2002, left a handwritten note in the visitor log at Canopy Tower. After all these years, our MOS travel group was glad to follow in his footsteps.



Rick Blom's handwritten note in the Canopy Tower ledger, 1999.

Canopy Tower has four interior levels: the lobby and registration desk are on the ground floor; wedge-shaped guest rooms line the interior of the tower on the next two levels; and the top floor is one large room with a



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comfortable dining area, lounge seating, and a library nook. Windows all around look out on the lush rainforest, and the ceiling consists of the interior of the radar dome, hand-painted with silhouettes of raptors overhead. From the interior top floor, you climb steep narrow stairs to reach the rooftop observation deck. We all got our exercise climbing the four stories of stairs at least three times a day!



Canopy Tower lounge area; photo by Marcia Watson.



Canopy Tower bedroom; photo by Marcia Watson.

Canopy Lodge, our second venue, is located west of the Canal, in a rural area known as El Valle de Antón, where a small town nestles in the caldera of a long-extinct volcano. The lodge has extensive, beautifully landscaped grounds along a quick-flowing rocky stream, with views of the mountains that ring the valley on all sides. Meals are served on a huge covered patio with a couple of adjoining

comfortable lounge seating areas. Guest rooms, most with private balconies or patios, are in a couple of small buildings adjacent to the covered patio.



MOS group on patio of Canopy Lodge; photo by Marcia Watson.

Besides the trails through the grounds, the big attraction at Canopy Lodge is the feeder setup, featured on a Cornell webcam that beams the scene live to birders around the world (<https://youtu.be/WtoxxHADnGk>). Daily visitors to the feeders include Gray-headed Chachalacas, Gray-cowled Wood-Rails, Thick-billed Euphonias, Blue-gray Tanagers, Crimson-backed Tanagers, Dusky-faced Tanagers, a resident Rufous Motmot, and many others, as well as a range of hummingbirds. Sometimes the Motmot would make himself at home and appear in the patio, perched on a chair. Agoutis, guinea pig-like rodents, are seen daily in the area of the feeders, hoping for some scatterings of food kicked overboard by the birds.

All of our meals were prepared by Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge staff, and served in the respective dining areas, except that for some full-day excursions, a picnic lunch was packed for us to eat on the road. Meals were served buffet style, and you could have as much or as little as you wanted. Several members of our group had special dietary needs, and we were all impressed by the care taken to provide separately prepared dishes to meet these needs. The food was plentiful and delicious – no one went hungry!

We were greeted at Canopy Lodge by none other than the owner and founder, Raúl Arias himself. He told us the story of how he learned to identify birds through a University of Panama course, and how he taught his friend, Danilo Rodriquez Sr., to identify the birds with him.

And the birding! Canopy Family employs a staff of professional bird guides who follow the policy: Show the guests the birds and make them happy! We were honored to be led on our daily bird walks by some of the most

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experienced guides in the Canopy Family: Danilo Rodriguez Sr., who learned to bird side-by-side with Raúl; his son, Danilo Jr., now a seasoned guide in his own right; and the Canopy head guide, Carlos Bethancourt, who has an international reputation and has trained many other guides throughout Latin America. We were also escorted by a young college student, Erik Rodriguez (no relations to the Danilo's) who is interning with the Canopy Family for his University of Panama degree in Ecotourism Business.



Gray-cowled Wood-Rails enjoy the Canopy Lodge feeders; photo by Marcia Watson.

Each day, the guides took us out on full- or half-day trips within easy driving distance of our lodges, making sure that we experienced all the different habitats and bird species within reach. Some days, we travelled in custom-built, open-air Birdmobiles that have long benches on the back of a flat-bed truck. Other days, we traveled in vans, and on a couple of days, we toured the mountainsides near Canopy Lodge using a small fleet of SUVs, driven by Rodriguez family relatives and friends. Whatever the conveyance, we had a lot of fun!

After returning to our lodgings at the end of the day, we would do a quick clean-up and then convene in the lounge area for appetizers and drinks and a run-through of the day's sightings, led by Danilo Jr. Then dinner, then early to bed to be ready for the next morning.

To cut to the chase: we ended our trip with a group total of 315 bird species. This included 22 species of hummingbirds; 21 vultures, hawks and falcons; 3 owls; 5 trogons; 5 motmots; 5 toucans/toucanets/aracaris; 6 parrots or parakeets; 20 birds in the antbird clan (antbirds, antshrikes, antwrens, etc.); 4 manakins; 45 flycatchers (!); and 29 species in the tanager clan. These are dizzying numbers when you think about our selections at home in

Maryland. And these numbers do not include the additional birds seen by Diane and Steve in their week at Canopy Camp.

At Canopy Tower, we started every day at dawn, when we would converge on the rooftop observation deck to sip coffee, while rushing from one side of the deck to the other to keep an eye on the bird activity. Away in the distance and down a long slope, we could see the Panama Canal with its traffic of huge container ships, although most mornings, the Canal did not appear until the fog and mist had burned off from the valleys. We dubbed one prominent Cecropia tree "the honeycreeper tree," because there were usually one or more colorful honeycreepers hanging out there. A Three-toed Sloth that liked to hang out in the canopy was another good landmark, as in "The Brown-hooded Parrots just flew to the right of the sloth."

One morning, we were treated to the sight of a couple hundred Eastern Kingbirds, in flocks of 25 or more, making their way on their northward migration. None of us had ever seen so many Kingbirds at one time. There were also large flights of Cliff Swallows. And of course, tropical specialties were everywhere: Broad-billed Motmot, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed Toucan, Black-throated Trogon, Gartered Trogon, Orange-chinned Parakeets, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, and spectacular songbirds such as Golden-hooded Tanager and Blue Dacnis. There were also some familiar neotropical migrants from home, such as Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, and Tennessee Warblers.

The hummingbird feeders near the door of the Canopy Tower also kept us busy, with a constant parade of White-necked Jacobin, Long-billed Hermit, Stripe-throated Hermit, White-vented Plumeleteer, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Blue-chested Hummingbird, and an occasional Violet-bellied Hummingbird.

One of our first bird walks was at the world-famous Pipeline Road, just a few minutes from the Canopy Tower. The Pipeline Road, built by the Americans to serve a never-used oil pipeline, stretches through miles of rainforest in what is now Soberania National Park. More than 425 species have been sighted along the Pipeline Road. A highlight of our visit was a Great Potoo high in a tree. We also spotted a King Vulture high overhead (the only one of our trip) and had a quick glimpse of a Double-toothed Kite. A whole series of "ant" birds were sensational: Dusky Antbird, White-bellied Antbird, Fasciated Antshrike, Black-crowned Antshrike, White-flanked Antwren, Dot-winged Antwren, Chestnut-backed Antbirds, and Streak-chested Antpitta.

Other spots visited during our stay at Canopy Tower included some of the trails within the Soberania National Park, where Canopy Tower is located; Summit Ponds and the Ammo Dump Ponds near the Panama Canal; and the Gamboa Rainforest Resort, which includes a marina along



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the broad Chagres River and some nice swampy ponds where there was a deafening chorus of several different species of frogs.

After relocating to Canopy Lodge, we spent seven more days exploring the cloud forests and stream valleys of El Valle de Antón and surrounding hills. Some of our best birding came at a posh residential development high in the hills, where we were treated to excellent views of Snowcap Hummingbird, a tiny black gem with a white head; Bright-rumped Attila; and Masked Tityra.

We had a memorable day trip to a spot on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, where Canopy Family owns a villa on the beach. Here, we enjoyed a home-cooked hot lunch while we lolled away our time taking in the flights of Magnificent Frigatebirds overhead. Laughing Gulls and Sandwich Terns loafed on the beach, and we loafed in the comfortable lounge chairs in the villa's yard. A flock of Brown Pelicans had commandeered a small boat moored just offshore, and further away, viewable by scope, we spotted Blue-footed Boobies resting on a buoy near a rocky islet. After finishing up at the beach, we visited a nearby residential area where a Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was hanging out. Also memorable at this location were giant caterpillars of Tetrio Sphinx Moth, hundreds of them festooned in a tree. The caterpillars were about 6" long and brightly colored; in some of the Caribbean Islands they are called rasta caterpillars, because of their red, black, and yellow colors.



Caterpillar of Tetrio Sphinx Moth; photo by Marcia Watson

Being Marylanders and loyal disciples of Chan Robbins, we atlased our way through Panama. We were fortunate to catch many birds on nests or carrying food or feeding young. Some notable species for which we entered breeding codes include Black-throated Trogon (pair in

suitable habitat); Slaty-tailed Trogon (on occupied nest); Masked Tityra (on occupied nest); Lesser Elaenia (feeding young); Smooth-billed Ani (courtship, display, or copulation); Clay-colored Thrush (nest with young); Blue-gray Tanager (feeding young; at another location, occupied nest); Bananaquit (carrying nesting material); Tufted Flycatcher (occupied nest); Rusty-margined Flycatcher (carrying food); Social Flycatcher (nest building); Chestnut-headed Oropendola (carrying food); Long-tailed Tyrant (occupied nest); Buff-throated Saltator (carrying nesting material); Emerald Tanager (occupied nest); and Bat Falcon (pair in suitable habitat).

Our group member David Kidwell kindly acted as our eBird guru, assiduously posting our daily sightings and sharing the checklists with the rest of us. David produced an eBird Trip Report that you can view at

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/52983>; the Trip Report is a compilation of all of our 116 checklists – that's an average of 10.5 checklists per day of birding (some of us arrived a day early and had 11 days of birding). The Trip Report lists all 315 bird species that we observed, with links to photos of more than 215 species, as well as links to each individual checklist. The narrative for the Trip Report also includes lists of mammals, herps, and insects that we observed. The page header is a map with pinpoints showing all the places we birded. Diane Durham prepared a second eBird Trip Report for the extension that she and Steve Krupa took at Canopy Camp; you can view Diane's report at <https://ebird.org/tripreport/56700>.



Collared Trogon; photo by David Kidwell

The photos of our bird sightings are easily seen through the eBird trip reports. You may also be interested in collections of photos by Marcia Watson that show the hotels, general scenery, non-bird critters that we encountered, and of course, our happy group. See links to Marcia's photos at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vxyla1VihS0tjdJBT5ByF7PRIMZMaqbK/view?usp=sharing>.

There were so many more notable sightings, like the White-tipped Sicklebill, a rare hummingbird, for which we

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patiently waited in a forest clearing for over an hour; it finally made its appearance at red heliconia flowers where our guides had scrupulously prepared a clear sightline for us. Or the Collared Forest-Falcon that kept teasing us with quick glimpses as it flew from perch to perch. Or the Crested Bobwhites that dashed across a scrubby field just at the right time for us to see them. Too many to mention. You'll just have to go see for yourself.



White-tipped Sicklebill feeding on heliconia; photo by David Kidwell

**If you go:** There is no need to use a third-party tour company. You can book your stay directly with the Canopy Family through their website (<https://www.canopytower.com>). They can serve small numbers of people from singles and couples to groups of 12 or so. Canopy Tower has only about a dozen rooms; Canopy Lodge is a bit bigger but still in the small hotel category. They offer pre-set tour itineraries that include both the Tower and the Lodge, or you can choose one or the other, and there are tours that also include Canopy Camp. Some of the packages focus on butterflies or herps. Your package will include lodging, meals, and guided day trips as well as airport transfers. There are daily flights to Panama City from BWI, Dulles, and Ronald Reagan International Airport on US airlines as well as on Copa Airlines, the national airline of Panama.

Many thanks to Maryanne Dolan, who did all the advance planning for the trip, including all the myriad details that accompanied the two-year delay, and who worked with the staff at Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge on a daily basis while we were there to make sure our every need was met. Maryanne did a fantastic job!



### A Cautionary Tale

It is wonderful to see MOS members once again traveling the globe in search of birds. I too joined in the return to travel. My trip did not exactly play out as planned.

Four Harford County birders joined five California birders and our excellent trip leader for a Central Colombia birding adventure. We had anticipated this trip for 2 years and finally felt safe to venture forth hoping COVID was in the rear-view mirror. Most had been “laying low” for the previous 2-3 weeks avoiding large gatherings like picnics, parties, and reunions. We all knew friends who had been traveling internationally for months and no one knew of any COVID outbreaks.

The Northern Andes in Colombia split into three distinct ranges, Eastern, Central and Western. The trip commenced in Medellin. The first day we traveled to a nearby patch of forest and immediately encountered the endemic Red-bellied Grackle and many others. Then it was in the van for the drive to Las Tangaras reserve in the Choco Cloud forest on the west slope of the Western Andes. The usual drive of 4 hours took almost 8 due to construction delays. No one wore masks. Rain occurred every day on this trip, but we were never rained out. The next day we rode in jeeps high into the mountains. The hummingbird feeders up there were full of activity. Life birds were mounting as we encountered hummers like Rufous-gaped Hillstar. We hiked the trails and found so many birds. One member was noted to be coughing and not covering it. By the time we returned to the lodge it was obvious he was ill. To make a long story short, by the next day, three participants tested positive. One departed for home immediately, another within 2 days. The third continued on the trip. We began wearing masks in the van, dining, and while birding. In retrospect, this was “closing the barn door after the horse was out!”

We continued crossing the Andes from west to east and birding many spectacular habitats at elevations between 6000 and 8300 feet. After the initial 2 departures, no one seemed very ill and there were no altitude issues. By day 9 the travel company caught up with us and tested



everyone. All were Positive except two from California and the driver of the van! Those 2 left the trip at that point to hang out in Pereira our final destination. The remaining 6, plus the driver managed to drive up to the Los Nevados National Park at 13,576 feet and birded along the way. We were treated to great looks of Scarlet-bellied Mountain-Tanager and an Andean Pygmy Owl among others. We were not permitted to stay at the hotel that was planned. Instead, we drove to Pereira for the last three nights.

The trip leader found an ebird hotspot, the Jardin Botanico of Pereira. We had great looks at Spectacled Parrotlet, Chestnut-fronted Macaw, and Bar-crested Antshrike among many others. We saw over 250 species for the total trip.

This is a cautionary tale! We may be finished with COVID, but it is not finished with us. Each of us is responsible for our actions. We must take precautions to protect others as well as ourselves. This means trying to protect yourself prior to a trip, during a trip and not trying to hide it if you are ill. I believe these behaviors should be part of the "new" birding etiquette. *Jean Wheeler*

#### **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY**

*Pat* and *Juanita Tate* of the Anne Arundel Chapter have participated in the Nest Watch program through The Smithsonian National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute for over ten years. This year, the banders, two interns, came on 5/21/22 to their backyard habitat and successfully caught two Gray Catbirds, no Northern Cardinals, but six total House Wrens and Carolina Wrens. After they took the nets down, there were three or four catbirds around. Then came the news a week later that "the geriatric birdwatchers have a Carolina Wren that was banded in 2014 and recaptured last Saturday. It is the longest living bird in the Nest Watch program". And a smart bird too, because *Juanita* has created the perfect habitat for our avian friends. Congratulations to the *Tates*!

#### **PEOPLE AND BIRDS FLOCK TO MAGEE MARSH**

My wife, *Carol Swan* and I joined *Kim* and *Gene Hudyma* and *Bobbi Reichwein* in May for an Ohio birding trip driving to the Cleveland area. We focused on the warbler Mecca known as Magee Marsh. *Kim* was our expert guide along with her Ohio friend *Kathy Neugebauer*, former AABC member. This was Ohio native *Kim's* 24th year of this trip, and she knew the top spots and the birds very well.

Upon arrival after 6 hours on the road, we sat on *Kathy's* back deck facing a protected forest with many feeders attracting an incredible array of our feathered friends—Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and four species of woodpeckers.

The next day, it was off to Magee Marsh State Wildlife Area (near Toledo), 2,200 acres on Lake Erie with a boardwalk and trails. During May, it is an avian magnet as migrating

birds stop to refuel during their annual northern migration before flying over the lake or staying to breed.

The star attractions are wood warblers flying in from wintering grounds from as far as the tip of South America. They are on a critical mission to mate and perpetuate their species. There are 52 species of warblers that visit North America regularly, about 42 of them regularly seen in the Eastern U.S.

Other species join them in migration including gorgeous male Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanagers, and Indigo Buntings, while resident birds add to the sightings. I must confess that even as a long-time wildlife aficionado and birdwatcher, warblers have confounded me. These small birds present many challenges even for accomplished birders. Most are only 4.5 inches to 6 inches in length and weigh under 0.7 ounces. These diminutive critters are very active and are typically solitary and not found in flocks like so many other birds.

At Magee Marsh I was shocked to see thousands of intensive birdwatchers replete with binoculars, scopes, and expensive cameras—the greatest flock of birders I had ever seen. The area also was full of birds, especially warblers, and we spotted so many special birds around the parking lot it took us nearly an hour to get to the boardwalk only a short distance away. The flocks of birders also were interesting to watch, too.

We met *Greg Miller*, the obsessive birder portrayed by *Jack Black* in the 2011 movie *The Big Year*. *Greg* lived in Maryland at the time. He saw 715 species in 1998, finishing second of the three contestants.

All of us contracted warbler-neck, a common malady from steeply staring up at treetops for extended periods trying to pick out an elusive warbler with our binoculars and cameras. We spent two full days at Magee Marsh and nearby federal and state parks and wildlife management areas. We also birded in downtown Cleveland at a city park overlooking Lake Erie. There we saw more warblers, orioles, and the greatest Gray Catbird assemblage I had ever seen, along with many Blue Jays flying overhead.

We went as far east as Akron and birded along the old Erie Canal picking up other warbler species and saw a Great Blue Heron rookery with 72 active nests. All five days we enjoyed picnic lunches in natural settings surrounded by birds. During the trip, we saw 24 species of warblers, some of them life birds! Splendid views of Northern Parula, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, and Prothonotary Warblers. We sat on a bench and watched a gorgeous Yellow-throated Warbler walking up the bark of a large tree pecking at insects imitating a Brown Creeper.

The most meaningful sighting for me was my first Kirtland's Warbler, one of North America's rarest songbirds. The sighting caused the greatest sensation of any bird, with hundreds of enthusiasts following every move, binoculars up, and cameras clicking. Like a swarm of bees, the crowd moved up and down the trail, as this rare warbler flew quickly from tree to tree.

I was able to see 109 species including a Yellow-headed Blackbird, a sleeping Eastern Whip-poor-will, baby Great

Horned Owls, and White Pelicans. I am still enthralled looking at my bird list and viewing Carol's pictures of these splendid creatures, all part of the Greatest Show on Earth.



Photos taken by Carol Swan at  
Magee Marsh, Ohio, May 2022

Above: Birders at Magee Marsh

Right: Blackburnian Warbler

Below: Kirtland's Warbler





## CECIL COUNTY

The land of the Eternal Nile is where we find *Kim* and *Ken Drier* this month. Facing a deadline at the end of the day, we see Ken on the way home in Heathrow Airport in London working on the Cecil Chatter for this issue. Three weeks in Jordan and Egypt with Overseas Adventure Travel. The ancient city of Petra was of course the highlight in Jordan, especially so with Hoopoes and Yellow-vented Bulbuls flying about. Though this was Ken's third trip to the Land of the Pharaohs, their temples and tombs were still astonishing. A five day cruise up the Nile from the Valley of the Kings from Luxor to Aswan provided most of the the bird life. This was a small ship with only 12 of passengers on board. Pied Kingfishers hitched rides on the ship, upping the number of guests. Two different Bee-eaters were observed, as well as multiple herons and egrets. Ring-necked Parakeets made plenty of noise flying in and out of the trees. What trip to Egypt would be complete without Egyptian Geese? Of course the best were the Glossy Ibis, falcons, ducks and geese portrayed on the walls of the antiquities often in living color as hieroglyphs. Ken tallied 19 species in Jordan and another 41 in Egypt of which 14 were life birds including both the local Sunbirds, one in each country, the Palestinian and the Nile Valley. We have not yet counted the four species seen at the Vienna airport as well. With a PhD in Egyptology along as the guide, how could one go wrong. This sojourn was five years in the making and well worth it.

*Ken Drier*

## HOWARD COUNTY

I just got back from a trip to northern central Michigan for a family reunion. While there I was able to schedule a trip with the Michigan Audubon Society to Hartwick Pines State Park. We were able to see multiple singing Kirtland's Warblers. The gentleman who was our guide is the primary researcher for the state, and he discussed how they count singing males and nests every season. The population is doing much better. Nashville Warblers like the same habitat, and there were quite a few of them as well. Overall, that part of Michigan has great birding; a lot of the birds that we only see in migration nest there. While on my cousin's property, I was able to see Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Purple Finches.

*Lisa Colangelo*

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

*Roy Howard* writes "For those birders who are looking for an international experience, I highly recommend Mindo Ecuador, in the cloud forest north of Quito. (It's actually the main destination for the MOS trip this November.) I spent five days there in April 2022. We stayed at El Monte Lodge that provided an exceptional birding guide. During our stay I saw over 100 species including the one-of-a-kind bird: Andean Cock-of-the-Rock found only in the Andean cloud

forest areas of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. All in all, it was a most remarkable experience."

Seconding Roy's report, *Linda Keenan* sent the following: "My husband, *Peter Day*, and I traveled to Ecuador in May and June. First, we spent a week in the "greater Mindo area." Some of our favorite birds there were the toucans, the barbets, the tanagers, antpittas, the Cock of the Rock (of course), the trogons, and my special favorite the Rose Faced Parrot. Any fans of birding in Mindo can help maintain La Paz de las Aves as a bird refuge (instead of a future cattle ranch) by donating to [Fundraiser by Vinicio Paz :Help to protect the Antpitta habitat \(Angel Paz\) \(gofundme.com\)](#).



Cock-of-the Rock Photo by Linda Keenan

We saw the Andean Condor near Antisana National Park, and, in the Amazonia area of Ecuador, oropendolas, macaws, the Horned Screamer, the Hoatzin, and many other birds, along with monkeys and sloths. We saw hummingbirds all over, not just at feeders but nectaring in the forests. At Isla de la Plata we were thrilled to see the courtship ritual of the Blue-Footed Booby. Altogether, we saw about 200 species of birds, which is actually a small number compared to the 1,680 bird species in Ecuador. So we'll have to return in order to see more! We would recommend Marcelo Arias, our guide in Mindo and El Eden Lodge and their guide Gustavo in Amazonia."

*Clive Harris* and *Dave Powell* did a "self-organized" trip to Nome and Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), Alaska, from May 31-June 10. Clive reported, "Some of the highlights included Brambling, Red-necked Stint, Emperor Goose, Steller's and Spectacled Eiders, two Gyrfalcon nests and seeing shorebirds on their breeding grounds - the most special being breeding-plumage Red Phalaropes. But for once the star sighting was not avian, as we had amazing views of a Polar Bear on the sea ice at Utqiagvik, feeding on discarded whale meat from a kill made by the locals."



Polar Bear Photo by Clive Harris

*Becky Cromwell* writes, "As I was planning my trip to Magee Marsh in Ohio for spring migration, I started thinking about what birds I might see. I was hoping to see a Cerulean Warbler. The first few days we saw lots of great birds, but no Cerulean. On Day 4, we checked the white board which lists all recent sightings and location. There was the Kirtland's Warbler! I first learned about this bird in Don Messersmith's class and fantasized about making a trip to Michigan to see it. This bird had been spotted the day before, but alas, it had been seen on the estuary near the boardwalk. My birding companion, Lynn, could not venture on the beach due to a recent ankle fracture, which left her dependent on a knee scooter. So we returned to birding on the boards, where we quickly got caught up in a search for the elusive, skulking Mourning Warbler. As we peered into the brambles, a woman to my right said "Kirtland's Warbler" in a loud whisper(!) and in a moment, a crowd of excited folks were gathering a few yards away. I found a spot up front and immediately the handsome warbler popped up and began walking down a log, no further than 10 feet away. Since I don't have a photo, you will have to check Sibley or imagine a bright yellow breast, a steel gray back flecked with black, and white eye crescents. To quote Ken Kaufman "the super-rare Kirtland's Warbler also passes through, and has been seen during this period, but it is not to be expected."

*Chris Wright*

#### **PATUXENT BIRD CLUB**

Prince George's County saw some birding excitement when the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) hosted a Fork-Tailed Flycatcher on Tuesday, May 30. The bird was found by *Michel Cavigelli*, a Patuxent Bird Club member who is a soil scientist at BARC. The bird was hawking insects from various perches, including wires, corn stalks, and trees.

Michel first noticed the bird around noon, photographed it, posted to eBird, and quickly got the word out to local birders. Within an hour of Michel's notifications, other birders began to show up and were delighted by clear scope views and excellent photo opportunities – it was a clear sunny day with brilliant light. Although access to BARC is restricted (see <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/beltsville-agricultural-research-center/>), this bird was adjacent to Beaverdam Road, and was easily seen from the public roadway. By dusk, over 60 eBird reports had been posted. It was a good thing that birders got there quickly, because the flycatcher was a one-day wonder, and could not be found the following day.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher is found throughout Central and South America, but some populations are migratory and occasionally wander into the US. If accepted by the Mayland-DC Records Committee (the photos taken provide ample documentation), this sighting will be only the sixth record for Maryland and the first for Prince George's County. Previous records were in Anne Arundel (twice!), St. Mary's, Kent, and Worcester Counties, but this is the first spring record – all the previous records were from the fall (September through November). *Marcia Watson*



Photo of Fork-tailed Flycatcher at BARC by Michel Cavigelli

#### **TRI-COUNTY**

Long-time cub members, *Doug and Sally Ruby* moved to Rockingham, VA, a few years ago. They have, however, continued their club and MOS membership and continued birding. Doug sent this summary of his recent trip to Hawaii:

*Doug Ruby* and a birding friend joined a professional tour of Hawaii in April. We visited four islands- Oahu, Kauai, Maui and the Big Island in order to get the different endemics on each island. However, Hawaiian birdlife is loaded with introduced species, whether game birds or songbirds (many very small). The Bristle-thighed Curlew was much easier to view besides a golf course than the



hike on a mountain in Nome. There were Pacific Golden-Plovers everywhere. Doug ended the tour with 50 lifers. It was distressing that most endemics are struggling against avian malaria by restricting their ranges into the mountains where mosquitoes are absent and face real threats of extinction. Because the endemic honeycreepers are believed to have evolved from temperate zone birds, they do not have an innate immunity from avian malaria.

Club member *Pat Valdata* submitted this description of her birding activities while in France for a writing residency:

I was lucky enough to go to France in late April, and I spent two wonderful days birding in Provence with Pierre Defos Du Rau, a tour leader for Wings. We went to the Camargue one day, and to the Réserve Naturelle des Coussouls de Crau and the Alpilles Regional Park the next. The three parks had very different habitats—river delta, rocky steppe, and Mediterranean hills—which gave us a wonderful diversity of birds. We saw 98 species, despite some rainy, windy, and chilly weather, and I added 37 new species to my life list that weekend, including a few uncommon birds that Pierre was very happy to spot: Eurasian Griffon (*Gyps fulvus*), Bonelli's Eagle (*Hieraetus fasciatus*) and Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*). Of course, we also saw many Greater Flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) in the Camargue, and the region's iconic white horses and black bulls. I added lifer number 38, a Short-toed Treecreeper (*Certhia brachydactyla*), in Auvillar, a village on the Garonne River, where I was staying for a 10-day writing residency. Every morning I was treated to great views of Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*), Eurasian Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) nesting in a birdhouse, and Great Tit (*Parus major*), which nested in a flowerpot next to a garden shed and scolded me every morning as I had breakfast on the patio. Ellen Lawler

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

From May 15-20, 2022, ten Washington County Bird Club members comprised almost half of the Road Scholar group that traveled to the 4.4-square mile Kelleys Island, in Lake Erie off the Ohio coast. The goal was to search the island for as many of the thousands of migrating birds as possible on their way to Canadian breeding areas via the Mississippi and Atlantic migratory flyways.

The island was purchased by two brothers, Datus and Irad Kelley, starting in 1830; by 1840 they owned nearly the entire island with a population of 56. Now there are about 300 year-round residents. The Kelley brothers were interested in the worth of the island's limestone and lime products. Our group was interested in the island's quiet quarries, glacial grooves, limestone bedrock, empty beaches, and preserves coming to life with the treasures of the Springtime — myriad magical sounds of songs and calls from beautifully-feathered warblers, the endangered Lakeside Daisy and other rare plants, and bird residents mating and nesting. That was enough for us each day. Our

final checklist claimed 98 species, notably sightings of Sandhill Cranes, nesting Bank Swallows, vireos, thrushes, orioles, 20-plus warblers and, of course, Stanley — the island's legendary lone Wild Turkey, a 20-year resident so far!

It was our good fortune to spend time with Tom Bartlett, a Master Bird Bander for the U. S. Geologic Survey and a certified bird bander/trainer for the North American Banding Council. He has led bird banding and census efforts at Springville Marsh State Nature Preserve for over 40 years and the Lake Erie Islands for 26 years. Tom and his wife Paula banded the 100,000th bird in their career on October 22, 2021, a Northern Saw-Whet Owl. As a retired biology instructor with a dynamic personality, he is a great role model for young people whom he encourages to learn about birding in all its forms. For over two decades he has conducted a fundraiser to support the Black Swamp Bird Observatory's education programs that reach thousands of children. Entitled the "Big Sit"; he literally sits in an elevated perch for 12 hours at one end of the Magee Marsh boardwalk during the Biggest Week in American Birding, and visitors give him donations that have totaled over \$100,000 so far. For our group he provided an evening lecture on identification of Ohio warblers and invited us to Jones Preserve to observe bird banding, as well as help with collection of birds in the nets and hold/release banded birds.

Other evening talks from experts with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History included Bird Migration and Lights Out Cleveland.

Day 5 was a trip to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, where Courtney Brennan shared her outstanding invertebrate zoology research collection with us. On the next and final day, we had a chance to visit Magee Marsh and walk the boardwalks to see more Ohio migrants; my favorite bird that day was the Philadelphia Vireo, since the Connecticut Warbler everyone was looking for managed to elude me. We all wished each other good bye and good luck from there. Solitary birding is often necessary and desirable for personal reasons, but it was fun to meet new people and learn about them and their birding experiences. Those who participated from our bird club were *Linda and Bruce Field, Mike and Cheryl Saylor, Lem and Lee-Anne Halterman, Jane and Ed Drawbaugh, and Doug and Anna Hutzell. Linda Field*

**Photos at Kelleys Island, Ohio, by Bruce Field, May 2022**

Left: Tom Bartlett holding a banded Mourning Warbler



Above: Lakeside Daisies, a rare species in the Aster family, endemic to the Great Lakes region.



Left: Chestnut-sided Warbler at the Jones Preserve Banding Station





Above: Black-crowned Night Herons

Right: Glossy Ibis

Below: Yellow-crowned Night Heron





**Great Egrets at the Welcome Center Bridge Rookery at Ocean City, New Jersey**

Photographs by Carol Swan





## Some macaw photographs from Brazil, July 2022

Photographs by Ned Pennock



Above: Red and Green Macaws, Chapada dos Guimaraes National Park

Below: Blue and Yellow Macaws, Emas National Park



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## **MARYLAND FALL COUNT 2022**

The annual Fall Seasonal Bird Count sponsored by MOS will be held on the 3rd weekend of September in the Maryland-DC area. Individual coordinators will specify any special conditions that they feel necessary to ensure participant safety, as hopefully the pandemic conditions continue to improve. Participation is at your own risk, and Maryland Ornithological Society or sponsoring chapters are not liable. The MOS Board has left the choice of whether the count will be on Saturday the 17th or Sunday the 18th to local chapters and coordinators. In areas without an identified coordinator, individual parties submit their results directly to the statewide coordinator for inclusion.

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level. Every pair of eyes helps, and it can be a great learning experience and a lot of fun. The results of the count will appear in an article in the Spring 2023 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

The guidelines for this count are generally the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. Individual coordinators may provide specific instructions on how they want to receive inputs. Options include emailing copies of eBird checklists, sending photos/scans of hard copies you created, or a copy of the simple Excel spreadsheet (available on MOS website). A new checklist compilation form (AOS Supplement Order 62) and a spreadsheet capable of being sorted in either AOS or eBird order is available on the MOS website at the following link:

**<https://mdbirds.org/go-birdwatching/count-birds/fall-count-fall-migration/>**

The list includes the species one could expect to find in Maryland during this season. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details.

The fall counts, dates, and compilers (that were confirmed by the calendar deadline) are listed in the MOS Yellowthroat on-line calendar. **A list of the county coordinators can also be accessed on the MOS website listed above..** Anyone who has organized a count that is not included, or who is interested in volunteering as a coordinator for another county currently without a coordinator, is encouraged to contact the state coordinator.

**Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county/chapter coordinator is October 1, 2021. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by October 15.**

If you don't have web access, or you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, contact the state-wide Fall Count Coordinator directly. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites) who count in areas without a coordinator, but have data for the count dates, are asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered, participants, and coverage statistics directly to the state Fall Count Coordinator by October 15.

Join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat,

MOS State-wide Fall Count Coordinator

13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155

Home phone: 410-531-2417

E-mail: stirrbird@outlook.com



# MOS Calendar

Through 11/30/2022

## Field Trips

Please follow all restrictions requested by the host organization. Additional details are posted on MOS and chapter web sites.

8/4	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at <a href="https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/">https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/</a>
8/6	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University.
8/6	7:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Bombay Hook NWR Trip	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or <a href="mailto:emlawler534@comcast.net">emlawler534@comcast.net</a> for more information. Description: Search for fall migrants and early winter residents, including shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30am.
8/6	8:30 – 10:30 AM	Bird Walk at Friends Delight at Sang Run SP	Host: A/G Bird Club Description: Bird Walk led by Park Ranger Ingrid White. Meet at the Friends Delight Store.
8/7	5:30 AM – 12 PM	Lowe's Wharf and Blackwalnut Point	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016 or <a href="mailto:jkeffinger55@gmail.com">jkeffinger55@gmail.com</a> ) Description: Waders/Early Migrants Meet at Lowes Wharf at 5:30 am or at Blackwalnut Point at 7:00 am
8/14	5:30 AM – 12 PM	Lowe's Wharf and Blackwalnut Point	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016 or <a href="mailto:jkeffinger55@gmail.com">jkeffinger55@gmail.com</a> ) Description: Waders/Early Migrants Meet at Lowes Wharf at 5:30 am or at Blackwalnut Point at 7:00 am
8/14	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, <a href="mailto:baypuffin@hotmail.com">baypuffin@hotmail.com</a> or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. RSVP required. Limit 10.
8/18	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at <a href="https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/">https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/</a>
8/20	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds. Natural surface trails may be wet; waterproof footwear advised. Leaders may require mask for unvaccinated people. Reservations not needed. Meet at 7:30 AM at the Natural Area parking lot on the south side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of US Route 301 in Bowie.
8/20	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at our website, <a href="http://patterson.audubon.org">patterson.audubon.org</a> .
8/20	9 AM – 5 PM	Field Trip to Bombay Hook and other Delaware Bayshore Hotspots	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Gene Scarpulla and Marcia Watson will lead Description: A trip to Bombay Hook and nearby sites at the height of the fall shorebird migration; this is also a good time to pick up interesting rare waders. Meet at Bombay Hook Visitor Center parking area at 9 AM. Reservations required; please RSVP to Marcia Watson ( <a href="mailto:marshwren50@comcast.net">marshwren50@comcast.net</a> ) no later than August 1.
8/21	5:30 AM – 12 PM	Lowe's Wharf and Blackwalnut Point	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Randy Gonzalez (404-291-2265 or <a href="mailto:randybgonzalez@gmail.com">randybgonzalez@gmail.com</a> ) Description: Waders/Early Migrants Meet at Lowes Wharf at 5:30 am or at Blackwalnut Point at 7:00 am
8/21	8 – 11 AM	**Youth Birding**	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, <a href="mailto:dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com">dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com</a> , 410-426-7627. Description: "Bird Banding" will be this month's theme.
8/24	7 AM – 5 PM	Bird Walk at Bombay Hook & more	Host: AABC Contact Dale Murphy <a href="mailto:murphy_dale@msn.com">murphy_dale@msn.com</a> 410-798-6345 Meet at Bay 50, 7:00 AM
8/27	5 – 8 PM	Havre de Grace Shoreline Evening Paddle	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577 or <a href="mailto:cwebster@harford.edu">cwebster@harford.edu</a> ) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919; <a href="mailto:procellmd@gmail.com">procellmd@gmail.com</a> ). Description: The harbor areas are home to a great variety of water-related species such as ducks, geese, swallows, osprey, gulls, terns, heron and many others.
8/27	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Peter Lev, <a href="mailto:plev@comcast.net">plev@comcast.net</a> or 410-952-9426 Description: Follow the progress of fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
8/27	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at <a href="http://patterson.audubon.org">patterson.audubon.org</a> .
8/27	9 AM – 3 PM	Shorebirds	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mike Hudson, <a href="mailto:mike.p.hudson@gmail.com">mike.p.hudson@gmail.com</a> . Description: We will work to find and identify as many shorebirds and bayshore species as possible. We will visit sites along the Delaware Bay coast, including Bombay Hook NWR, Ted Harvey Conservation Area, and Milford Neck Wildlife Area. Meet at the Townsend Park & Ride near Townsend, Delaware. Trip limited to 15 people. RSVP to leader.
8/28	5:30 AM – 12 PM	Lowe's Wharf and Blackwalnut Point	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Vince De Sanctis (410-886-2009 or <a href="mailto:vdesanctis@verizon.net">vdesanctis@verizon.net</a> ) Description: Waders/Early Migrants Meet at Lowes Wharf at 5:30 am or at Blackwalnut Point at 7:00 am

9/1	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at <a href="https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/">https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/</a>
9/1	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader John Harris, jaybee.harris@gmail.com Description: Moderate walking through wooded trails and along the river. Great area for migrants of all species. Meet at the Trotter Rd entrance.
9/3	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Trail is gravel and dirt and is mostly flat, no hills. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Meet at 7:30 AM at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University.
9/3	8 – 11 AM	North Point State Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Varied habitats including marsh, woods, and beach. Expect to see Little Blue and other herons, songbirds, and raptors. Entrance fee is \$4 per car unless you have a State Park Pass.
9/3	8 AM – 12 PM	Rockburn Branch Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com. Description: Moderate walking through the woods and fields looking for migrants. Meet in parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse.
9/4	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Hurlock Sod Farms	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Susan Henyon (240-682-3882 or suehenyon@rocketmail.com) Description: Shorebirds, swallows, ducks Depart: Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30
9/4	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: AABC Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-913-8300
9/4	8 -10 AM	Bird Walk at the FSU Arboretum	Host: A/G Bird Club Point person is Melissa Hensel Description: Bird Walk at the FSU Arboretum. Meet at the lower parking lot by the stadium. To register or if you have questions contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com.
9/4	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com and/or Kevin Heffernan, kjheff122@gmail.com. Description: Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior. Canceled if raining or overcast. No facilities.
9/5	7 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk on the Ma & Pa Trail	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader is Susan Hood (410-937-7552; susanjhood@comcast.net). Description: Stroll a portion of this popular trail in search of early migrants and local residents. Meet at the parking lot near Annie's Playground on Smith Lane off Connolly Rd in Fallston.
9/6	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Deb and Lou Taylor, debrataylor11@gmail.com or 410-852-9807. Description: Follow the progress of fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
9/7	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Meet in the parking lot to the left of the gate. An online National Aquarium release form is required to be filled out in advance for entry into the restricted Wetland area: <a href="https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease">https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease</a> .
9/10	5 AM – 4 PM	Assateague Birding Competition	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: All Day team competition during fall migration
9/10	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Sherwood/Lowe's Wharf	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Lisa Sargeant (978 697-0135 or sargeant76@gmail.com) Description: Sherwood/Lowe's Wharf Waders/Early Migrants Breakfast provided by Lisa Sargeant. Depart: Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am or meet at Lowes Wharf.
9/10	6:45 – 7:40 PM	Chimney Swifts at Dusk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Alice Greely-Nelson, 410-499-0546 or alicendisplay@gmail.com. Description: The swifts have been returning regularly, so that is the planned spot this fall. We will post any change of venue on the BBC website, <a href="https://baltimorebirdclub.org">https://baltimorebirdclub.org</a> , and the BBC Facebook page, so be sure to double-check.
9/10	8 -10 AM	Bird Walk at the Serenity Trail at Allegany College	Host: A/G Bird Club Point person is Melissa Hensel Description: The walk is being held prior to the MOS Board Meeting. Meet in the parking area behind the Continuing Ed building. To register or if you have questions contact westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com.
9/10	8 – 11 AM	Herring Run Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Kim Tomko, 443-414-8034 or ktomkat@gmail.com. Description: This urban park in Northeast Baltimore is an oasis for many migrating and resident bird species. RSVP required.
9/10	8 – 11 AM	Adkins Arboretum	Host: Caroline County Bird Club Description: We will be joining the annual Adkins Arboretum Fall Bird Migration Walk. A brief Club meeting will be held following the walk.
9/10		Turkey Point/Elk Neck	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com Description: Early fall migrants. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
9/11	8 – 11:30 AM	Birding by Canoe at Days Cove	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Sam Tillman, sam.tillman@gmail.com, 443-844-5917. Description: Explore Days Cove from a canoe! The trip will start at the Days Cove Environmental Education Center, where canoes and lifejackets will be provided for \$10 per participant, to be collected on-site before the trip (cash preferred). Participants must be at least 12 years old. LIMIT OF 20 PARTICIPANTS, RSVP to leader required.
9/11	8:15 – 11 AM	Cylburn Arboretum	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. Limit 10. Pre-registration required, RSVP to the leader.
9/11	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families.
9/13	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 or mechetelat@icloud.com. Description: Follow the progress of fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
9/14	8 AM – 12 PM	Fort Frederick State Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club Leaders Bruce and Linda Field 301-991-9174.



9/15	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at <a href="https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/">https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/</a>
9/17	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University.
9/17	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Wheaton Regional Park	Host: AABC Contact Leo Dilling leodilling@hotmail.com, 703-282-0011
9/17	8 – 11 AM	Wyman Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Libby Erickson, elizabeth.erickson@gmail.com. Description: Formerly a little-known park, now popular during spring & fall migration. Expect to see a variety of warblers and other migrating birds. The one-mile dirt path can be muddy. We'll meet at the Remington Ave. Bridge above Wyman Park Drive. Canceled in bad weather. RSVP to leader required.
9/17	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at our website, <a href="http://patterson.audubon.org">patterson.audubon.org</a> .
9/17	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Meet in the parking lot to the left of the gate. An online National Aquarium release form is required to be filled out in advance for entry into the restricted Wetland area: <a href="https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease">https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease</a> .
9/17		Blue Ridge Nature Center	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: Mike Spurrier, 240-446-0305 or mspurrier819@gmail.com Description: Fall migrants
9/18	6:30 – 7:25 PM	Chimney Swifts at Dusk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Alice Greely-Nelson, 410-499-0546 or alicendisplay@gmail.com. Description: The swifts have been returning regularly, so that is the planned spot this fall. We will post any change of venue on the BBC website, <a href="https://baltimorebirdclub.org">https://baltimorebirdclub.org</a> , and the BBC Facebook page, so be sure to double-check.
9/18	7 AM – 12 PM	Turkey Point Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Tim Houghton (timhoughton@comcast.net; 410-510-7504) Description: The view from the Turkey Point Peninsula during the southern migration of raptors and other birds is truly spectacular. To carpool, meet Tim Houghton at the P&R off I-95 & Rt. 155 near the Havre de Grace exit at 7 AM. Or meet at Turkey Point at 8 AM.
9/18	8 -10 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Water Park	Host: AABC Contact Pat & Juanita Tate jpt8@earthlink.net 410-266-6043
9/18	9 – 11 AM	Youth Birding	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com or 443-416-9867. Description: Meet across from the front door at Coppermine Fieldhouse. This month's topic is "Fall Migration;" we will learn about the migration of birds through Maryland in the Fall. A game activity will follow our bird walk.
9/18	9 AM – 2 PM	Cromwell Valley Park Hawkwatch Weekend	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Description: All ages. Join Park volunteers and participate in Community Science to help us count the Broad-winged Hawks as they migrate through the Valley. Set your own hours. Bring a chair, water, snacks, and sunblock.
9/20	7 – 10 AM	Pontoon Ride in search of Sora	Host: AABC Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-913-8300
9/20	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Follow the progress of fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
9/21	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Falling Branch Trail	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: Two mile walk along the Falling Branch Trail. The varied habitat promises equally varied bird sightings.
9/23	7:30 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Cromwell Valley Park	Host: AABC Leader: Greg Kearns Contact Kevin Graff keyweststyle2001@gmail.com 410-967-5896 (text only). Meet at Willow Grove.
9/24	7 – 10 AM	Bird Walk at Swan Creek	Host: AABC Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-913-8300
9/24	7 AM – 12 PM	Pickering Creek Audubon Center	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leaders: Bobbie Wells (410-924-2568 or wellsbk@yahoo.com) and Randy Gonzalez (404-291-2265 or randybgonzalez@gmail.com). Description: Shorebirds/Migrants Depart: Easton Acme parking lot at 7:00 am or meet at Pickering Creek Audubon Center parking area at 7:15 am. Breakfast to follow, hosted by Bobbie Wells.
9/24	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Audubon. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at <a href="http://www.patterson.audubon.org">www.patterson.audubon.org</a> .
9/24	8 AM – 12 PM	Ashland/Paper Mill Flats	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Sam Tillman, 443-844-5917, sam.tillman@gmail.com. Description: We will look for shorebirds, waterfowl, migrating warblers, vireos, and others. The flats are quite large, so spotting scopes are helpful, especially for birds along the far shore. Limit 15. RSVP to leader required.
9/24	8 AM – 12 PM	Patuxent Research Refuge Birding	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Morning hunt for late migrants and early arrivals
9/24	8:15 – 11 AM	Cylburn Arboretum	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Meet at the main Vollmer Center parking lot for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. Limit 10. Pre-registration required, RSVP to the leader.
9/24		Manahan Rd	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: Lois Kauffman 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com Description: Fall migrants. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
9/25	8 – 11 AM	Soldier's Delight	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Sarah Luttrell, luttrell.sa@gmail.com, 614-352-7718. Description: Expect to see a wide variety of migrating songbirds at Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area. RSVP to leader.
9/25	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Banding Observation	Host: Caroline County Bird Club To register and for directions, contact Debby Bennett at <a href="mailto:dabennett1996@gmail.com">dabennett1996@gmail.com</a> . Description: Bird Banding observation at Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory. Great for kids. Ads welcome too.

9/26		Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Ralph Gueder, Oldhawk@aol.com. Description; Meet at parking lot or go directly to the Skywatch site. This trip will be a skywatch for migrating raptors and other potential flybys. September 27, Tuesday rain date.
9/27	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com. Description: Follow the progress of fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
9/27	8 AM – 12 PM	Basic Bird Walk at Camp Mardella	Host: Caroline County Bird Club. Leaders: Robin Lahmann and Debby Bennett. Description: Park and meet by the pavilion at 8 am. The pavilion is on the left side before you get to the main campus area.
9/29	7 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Adkins Arboretum	Host: AABC Leader: JC Lowery 443-496-1795 Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-913-8300 Meet at Bay 50, 7:00 AM
9/29	8 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Greenbrier State Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club Leaders Cheryl and Michael Saylor, 301-992-2535
10/1	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Trail is gravel and dirt and is mostly flat, no hills. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Reservations not needed. Meet at 7:30 AM at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University.
10/1	7:30 AM – 1 PM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Toby Pessoa Gingerich, tags2011@gmail.com. Description: We'll cover a variety of habitats. As well as a good mix of resident species, Druid Hill attracts a great variety of migrant songbirds and possibly early waterfowl. Meet at the park entrance on Swann Dr. RSVP required.
10/1	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Lynch Preserve	Host: Caroline County Bird Club Leaders: Debby Bennett & friends. Description: Park/meet at the end of Robins Creek Road. For more information about the preserve, go to: <a href="http://www.eslc.org/land-preservation/preserves/">http://www.eslc.org/land-preservation/preserves/</a> .
10/1		Lilypons	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: David Smith 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
10/2	11 AM – 3 PM	Hawk Watch at Dan's Rock Overlook	Host: A/G Bird Club Description: Try out your hawk identification skills by joining Rocky Gap State Park Ranger Samantha Dixon at the Dan's Rock Overlook if it is not raining.
10/2	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Wade's Point	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leaders: Trish Cope (301 325-7441 or trishcope73@gmail.com) and Ron Griffin (901-634-7785 or ckayakin@yahoo.com). Description: Migrants Depart: Easton Acme parking lot at 6:30 am or meet at Wade's Point Parking Area at 7:00 am.
10/2	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: AABC Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-913-8300
10/2	8 – 11 AM	Leakin Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Paul Kreiss, 410-367-8194, or paul1kreiss@verizon.net. Description: The park contains mature and secondary forests as well as riparian habitats and some limited field habitats. Expect to see a wide variety of migrating songbirds. Meet at the Winans Meadows parking lot on the N side of Franklinton Rd.
10/4	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Dave Votta, dgotta85@gmail.com. Description: Follow the progress of fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
10/5	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Meet in the parking lot to the left of the gate. An online National Aquarium release form is required to be filled out in advance for entry into the restricted Wetland area: <a href="https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease">https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease</a> .
10/6	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at <a href="https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/">https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/</a>
10/8	6 AM – 6 PM	Annual Big Sit	Host: AABC Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-913-8300
10/8	8 AM – 5 PM	Cape May Trip	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669. Description: Hawkwatch, Seawatch, and Marsh Exploration, Higbee Beach to Avalon
10/8	All day	Big Sit at North Point State Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Peter Lev, Libby Erickson, and Alyssia Church, plev@comcast.net, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com, alyssia.church@gmail.com. Description: The Big Sit is a national event to see or hear as many birds as possible from within a 17-foot diameter circle. Choose a 2-hour time slot and RSVP to Peter Lev. 8 AM to park closing.
10/8 or 10/9	All day	The Big Sit	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact David Smith 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net Description: Friendly competition with Audubon Society of Central Maryland during fall migration to see how many species we can identify. Event will be either October 8 or 9 depending on weather.
10/8	All Day	All-day trip to Assateague	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Dave Burgevin (301-788-0916 or dburgevin@gmail.com) Description: Falcons/migrants All day trip, return to Easton by 4:00. Bring lunch, drinks, bug spray, sun screen, etc. Depart: Easton Acme parking lot at 6:00 am or meet at Assateague State Park Parking Area at 8:00 am.
10/9	8 – 11 AM	Rocky Point Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Nico Sarbanes, nasarbanes@yahoo.com. Description: A wide variety of waterbirds and land birds could turn up at this fall migration hotspot.
10/9	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families.
10/9	All day	Caroline County's Big Sit	Host: Caroline County Bird Club Description: The Big Sit will be at the Wetlands Overlook near the Visitors Center from 7:30 am to early evening for some owling. This will be our monthly meeting for October – time TBA.
10/11	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Ron Davis, ronldavis1963@gmail.com. Description: Follow the progress of fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
10/14	8 – 10:30 AM	Bird Walk at Lake Elkhorn	Host: AABC Contact Linda Vitchock lindabvit@hotmail.com, 410-901-7555



10/15	7 AM – 3 PM	Birding at Assateague National Seashore	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. For more information contact Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net Description: Search for coastal migrants, especially hawks, warblers and sparrows. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:00 am or at the National Seashore Visitor Center parking lot (before the bridge) at 7:45 am.
10/15	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University.
10/15	8 – 11 AM	Wyman Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Libby Erickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com. Description: Expect to see a variety of warblers and other migrating birds. Meet at the Remington Ave. Bridge above Wyman Park Drive. Canceled in bad weather. RSVP required.
10/15	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Meet in the parking lot to the left of the gate. An online National Aquarium release form is required to be filled out in advance for entry into the restricted Wetland area: <a href="https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease">https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease</a> .
10/15		Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact leader Mike Spurrier 240-446-0305 or mspurrier819@gmail.com for meeting time and location Description: Fall migrants
10/16	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Spocott Farm	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Migrants Depart: Easton Acme Parking Lot at 6:30 am Leader: George Radcliffe (410-228-7670 or radclifg@gmail.com) and Wayne Bell (410-253-1663 or wbell2@washcoll.edu) Breakfast to follow, hosted by Jackie and George Radcliffe
10/16	8 -10 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: AABC Jim Collatz jcollatz@aol.com, 410-295-3344
10/16	8 AM – 12 PM	Oregon Ridge Park and Ag. Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Tim Carney, timmyc83@gmail.com. Description: Oregon Ridge is a good spot for thrushes, woodpeckers, and other passerines. The Center for Maryland Agriculture has a variety of open habitats; we'll look here for sparrows. Meet at the Oregon Ridge Park Nature Center. RSVP required.
10/16	9 – 11 AM	Youth Birding	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotraining@yahoo.com or 443-416-9867. Description: Meet by the Amphitheater at Fairwood Forest, 5921 Fairwood Ave., Baltimore City. This month's topic is "Bats- Our Flying Friends that Are Not Birds."
10/18	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Rachel Lachow, rachellachow@yahoo.com. Description: Follow the progress of fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
10/20	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at <a href="https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/">https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/</a>
10/20	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Davidsonville Park and Sands Road	Host: AABC Fred Shaffer glaucousgull@verizon.net 443-926-6457
10/22	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Blackwalnut Point	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Randy Gonzalez (404-291-2265 or randybgonzalez@gmail.com). Description: Hawks and sparrows Depart: Easton Acme Parking Lot at 6:30 am or meet at Blackwalnut Point at 7:00 am.
10/22	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at our website, <a href="http://patterson.audubon.org">patterson.audubon.org</a> .
10/23	9 AM – 3 PM	Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Expect to see waterfowl, shorebirds, herons, sparrows, raptors. Meet at refuge headquarters at 9 AM. Admission charge \$4 cash per car unless you have a Duck Stamp or National Parks Pass. Limit 12.
10/25	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Matthew Black, matthewblack66@yahoo.com. Description: Follow the progress of fall migration. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome.
10/28	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Masonville Cove	Host: AABC Contact Kevin Graff keyweststyle2001@gmail.com 410-967-5896 (text only)
10/29	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at <a href="http://patterson.audubon.org">patterson.audubon.org</a> .
10/29		Audrey Carroll	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader: David Smith 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net Description: Late fall migrants/early winter birds. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
10/30	11 AM – 3 PM	Hawk Watch at Town Hill Overlook	Host: A/G Bird Club. Point person is Melissa Hensel. Description: Meet at the Town Hill Overlook to watch for later migrating raptors. To register or if you have questions contact westernmdbhirdclub@gmail.com
10/30	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Ron Ketter (707-373-5532, rgketter@gmail.com) Description: Migrants Depart: Easton Acme Parking Lot at 6:30 am, or at Frederick Douglass Park at 7:00 a.m.
10/30	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Birding Shafer Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Leaders Mark Abdy and Heather McSherry, 301-573-1301.
11/2	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Meet in the parking lot to the left of the gate. An online National Aquarium release form is required to be filled out in advance for entry into the restricted Wetland area: <a href="https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease">https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease</a> .
11/3	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at <a href="https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/">https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/</a>
11/4 – 11/6	All Day	Sanctuary Work Weekend at Irish Grove Sanctuary	Host: MOS Sanctuary Committee. Description: Work in small teams to complete maintenance and improvement tasks on the grounds and in the sanctuary house. There will be time for birding and socializing. More details TBA. Contact Marcia Watson (marshwren50@comcast.net) to register.



11/5	7 AM – 12 PM	Oxford Conservation Park	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leaders Anne Walker (410-409-8714 or aywwalker@gmail.com) and Susan Henyon (240-682-3882 or suehenyon@rocketmail.com) Description: Sparrows, Meadowlarks. Breakfast to follow, hosted by Janet Mackey and Ron Ketter
11/5	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Trail is gravel and dirt and is mostly flat, no hills. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Reservations not needed. Meet at 7:30 AM at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University.
11/5	8 – 11 AM	Southwest Area Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Anne Arundel Bird Club. Leader: Stan Arnold, thrushhost@gmail.com. Description: In this transitional season, expect to see water birds, sparrows, kinglets, and maybe a surprise or two. Meet at the Boat Launch area.
11/5	8 AM – 12 PM	North County Regional Park	Host: Caroline County Bird Club Leaders: Debby Bennett & friends. Description: Meet at parking area near woods at 8 am.
11/5	8 AM – 5 PM	Chincoteague NWR Trip	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Refuge Exploration - Waterfowl, Wading Birds, Winter Arrivals
11/5	All Day	Howard Conservancy at Mt Pleasant Farm Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Russ Ruffing, russruffing@gmail.com. Description: This trip will be strictly a sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies. Participants can also walk the Conservancy trails if sky-watching proves non-productive. Facilities available.
11/5		Bombay Hook	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leaders Lynn Kieffer 301-943-5920 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com and Lois Kauffman 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com. Description: all-day trip for waterfowl and wintering shorebirds. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
11/6	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly Walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: AABC Contact Alan Young alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-913-8300
11/6	8 – 11 AM	Middle Branch Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Nico Sarbanes, nasarbanes@yahoo.com. Description: Waterfowl, terns, gulls, and land birds. RSVP required.
11/11	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Chesapeake Env Center	Host: AABC Contact Adele Clagett adele@myoldpub.com, 410-212-2652
11/11 – 13	All Day	Waggoners Gap weekend	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com). Description: Migrating Hawks Overnight trip. Contact Jeff Effinger for more details. Depart: Easton Acme Parking Lot at 6:00 am.
11/12	8 AM – 12 PM	Tuckahoe State Park's Scales & Tales Aviary	Host: Caroline County Bird Club Description: Meeting and tour. Meet at the aviary. A brief business meeting will follow the tour.
11/12		Waggoner's Gap	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Tom Humphrey 240-793-2508. Description: Hawk watch. Contact leader for meeting time and location.
11/13	8:30 – 11:30 AM	Irvine Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Brian Rolfinke, brollfinke@gmail.com. Description: A great spot for sparrows (Vesper Sparrow possible), raptors, and other birds of the transitional season. Recommended for young birders and their parents. Canceled if rain or winds. A fee of \$5 per person is required. RSVP to leader required.
11/13	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families.
11/17	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at <a href="https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/">https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/</a>
11/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Kingston Landing	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Vince De Sanctis (410-886-2009 or vdesanctis@verizon.net) Description: Waterfowl/Sparrows Depart: Easton Acme Parking Lot at 7:00 am Breakfast to follow, hosted by Bettye Maki.
11/19	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University.
11/19	7:30 AM – 4 PM	Field Trip to Bombay Hook NWR	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net for more information Description: Field Trip to Bombay Hook NWR to search for fall migrants and early winter residents, including shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30am. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks.
11/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at our website, <a href="http://patterson.audubon.org">patterson.audubon.org</a> .
11/19	9 – 11 AM	Fort McHenry Monitoring Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 443-564-6551. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Meet in the parking lot to the left of the gate. An online National Aquarium release form is required to be filled out in advance for entry into the restricted Wetland area: <a href="https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease">https://aqua.formstack.com/forms/waiverandrelease</a> .
11/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary	Host: AABC Contact Peter Hanan peter.hanan@icloud.com 301-580-2785
11/20	8 -10 AM	Monthly Walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: AABC Contact Linda Vitchock lindabvit@hotmail.com, 410-901-7555
11/20	9 – 11 AM	Youth Birding	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotraining@yahoo.com or 443-416-9867. Description: Meet at Cromwell Valley Park, Willow Grove entrance parking lot. This month's topic is "Wild Turkey."
11/25	All Day	Barbara Riccardi Annual Black Friday Walk	Host: AABC Contact Peter Hanan peter.hanan@icloud.com 301-580-2785 Meet at Bay 50, 7:00 AM
11/26	4 – 7 PM	Late afternoon Owl Prowl	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader: Jeff Effinger (410-443-5016 or jkeffinger55@gmail.com) Description: Owls Depart: Easton Acme Parking Lot at 4:00 pm
11/26	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at <a href="http://patterson.audubon.org">patterson.audubon.org</a> .



11/27	All Day	Eastern Neck	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leaders Wayne Bell (410-253-1663 or wbell2@washcoll.edu) and Dave Burgevin (301-788-0916 or dburgevin@gmail.com) Description: Waterfowl, sparrows All day trip, return to Easton by 4:00. Bring lunch, drinks, bug spray. Depart: Easton Acme parking lot, 6:30 am
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## Meetings

Meetings may be virtual or in-person (or both)! Additional details, including links, will be posted on chapter web sites and the MOS calendar, as available.

9/10	10 AM – 12 PM	MOS	MOS Board Meeting	Allegany College
9/13	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Board Meeting	MD
9/13	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Guest speaker TBA.	Virtual
9/13	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	George Radcliffe will speak on "Call Me Cousin George," about Senator George Radcliffe.	Easton YMCA
9/21	7:30 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Tim Carney and Kristina Motley will speak on "Poplar Island: An International Model of Innovative Reuse"	Potomac Presbyterian Church
9/24	4 – 7 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	Annual Kick-off Picnic at the home of Paul Bystrak and Marylee Ross.	5968 Rockawalkin Road, Salisbury
9/26	7 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	"The greatest environmental threat to wildlife and how to be a part of the solution" presented by Dr. Aaron Hogue.	MAC Education Center
9/27	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Greg Kearns will talk on birding in Brazil- the Pantanal, Iguazu Falls and Buenos Aires	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
9/29	6 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Picnic and meeting. Pot luck – bring a dish or desserts to share with other members. Contact Mike Spurrier, 240-446-0305 or mspurrier819@gmail.com	Utica District Park
10/4	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Matt Felperin will speak on Exploring and Birding Puerto Rico	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
10/6	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Dennis Coskren will speak on "Maryland's Himalayas" – how habitats are influenced by the geology of an area	Homewood at Crumland Farms
10/9	TBA	Caroline County Bird Club	Brief business meeting during the Bit Sit.	Adkins Arboretum
10/11	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Board Meeting	MD
10/11	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Guest speaker TBA.	Virtual
10/11	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	Matt Whitbeck and Ron Ketter will speak on "South Africa: From the Karoo to the Marion Islands".	Easton YMCA
10/13	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Fred Schafer will speak on Gulls of North America	Virtual
10/19	7:30 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Suzanne Dater will speak on "Birds of Bulgaria and Greece: Griffon Vultures, Dalmatian Pelicans and other Birds"	Potomac Presbyterian Church
10/24	7 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	Presentation TBA. For more information contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net	MAC Education Center

10/25	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Mark Meadows will talk on Endangered Bird Restoration	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
11/1	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Emily Cohen will speak on Migration Biology and What That Teaches Us about Our Conservation Efforts	Greenhouse Classroom, Cylburn Arboretum
11/3	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Greg Kearns will speak on “Jug Bay, MD: Of Rice, Rails, Motus, and Bermuda ... a Lifeboat for Birds”	Homewood at Crumland Farms
11/8	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Guest speaker TBA.	Virtual
11/8	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	Dr. Jennie Rineheimer will speak on "Eating, Being Eaten, and Breeding: Predation Risk and Reproductive Trade-offs in Birds" 7:00 pm, Easton YMCA	Easton YMCA
11/10	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	David Holmes will speak on Historic Amazements	Virtual
11/12	11 AM – 12 PM	Caroline County Bird Club	Brief business meeting following the aviary tour.	Tuckahoe State Park
11/15	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Board Meeting	Virtual
11/16	7:30 – 9 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Gail Mackiernan will speak on "Birding Taiwan (and a Bit of China)"	Potomac Presbyterian Church
11/22	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Film TBA	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
11/28	7 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	"Changing Delmarva; Assateague Coastal Trusts' priorities and challenges in our coastal watershed" presented by Gabby Ross, Assateague Coastkeeper.	MAC Education Center

## Fall Counts

Information is current as of publication date, but subject to change if state pandemic guidance/restrictions change

Caroline County Fall Count	Contact the Fall Count Coordinator Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com	9/17
Carroll County Fall Count	Contact the Fall Count Coordinator Scott Hodgdon, scotthodgdon@msn.com	9/17
Dorchester County Fall Count	Contact Harry Armistead (215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com)	9/17
Howard County Fall Count	Please go to the following link to sign up. <a href="http://howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm">http://howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm</a>	9/17
Washington County Fall Count	Contact Doris Berger, 301-739-8907, dberger@md.net	9/17
Wicomico County Fall Count	Contact the Fall Count Coordinator Paul Bystrak, shrike@comcast.net	9/17
YMOS Fall Count, Dorchester County	Contact: (George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669)	9/17
Allegany County Fall Count	Contact the Fall Count Coordinator Chuck Hager at drhager@verizon.com	9/18
Calvert County Fall Count	Contact Sherman Suter, 703-362-8963, shermansuter@gmail.com	9/18
Prince Georges County Fall Count	Contact coordinator Matt Felperin (mfelperin@nvrpa.org) to pre-register.	9/18
Somerset County Fall Count	Contact the Fall Count Coordinator Pat Valdata, pvaldata@charter.net	9/18
Talbot County Fall Count	Contact Ron Ketter (707-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com)	9/18
Worcester County Fall Count	Send data to Chuck Stirrat, stirrcr1@gmail.com	9/18